

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method of upgrading the warranty of a computer system including a  
2 plurality of components in a configuration, the method comprising :  
3 detecting, by the computer system, of a change in the configuration of  
4 the computer system; and  
5 sending, by the computer system, of a warranty upgrade request to a  
6 remote warranty processor when a change in the configuration of the  
7 computer system is detected, the warranty upgrade request including  
8 configuration information for the computer system.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving, by the computer system,  
2 of a warranty upgrade price dependent on the configuration information in the  
3 warranty upgrade request.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising asking, by the computer system,  
2 the computer user if a warranty upgrade is desired prior to the sending step  
3 when a change in configuration is detected.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving, by the computer system,  
2 a warranty authorization including a warranted configuration describing the  
3 configuration to be warranted.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving, by the computer system,  
2 a digitally signed warranty authorization including a warranted configuration  
3 describing the configuration to be warranted.

**PATENT**

Docket No.: 16356.662 (DC-03303)

Customer No. 000027683

1 6. The method of claim 4 wherein the warranty authorization includes warranty  
2 type information.

1 7. The method of claim 4 wherein the warranty authorization includes warranty  
2 duration information.

1 8. The method of claim 4 wherein the warranty authorization includes a unique  
2 identification number of the computer system.

1 9. The method of claim 5 further comprising authenticating, by the computer  
2 system, the digitally signed warranty authorization.

1 10. The method of claim 4 further comprising comparing, by the computer  
2 system, the warranted configuration in the warranty authorization with the  
3 actual configuration of the computer system, and storing the warranty  
4 authorization in secure storage if the warranted configuration matches the  
5 actual configuration.

1 11. The method of claim 10 wherein a secure processor in the computer system  
2 performs the comparing and storing.

1 12. A method of upgrading the warranty of a computer system including a  
2 plurality of components in a configuration, the method comprising :  
3 receiving, by a warranty processor, of a warranty upgrade request from  
4 the computer system, the warranty upgrade request including configuration  
5 information for the computer system, the warranty request being generated  
6 by the computer system when the computer system detects a change it its  
7 configuration; and  
8 determining, by the warranty processor, of a warranty upgrade price  
9 dependent on the configuration information in the warranty upgrade request.

**PATENT**

Docket No.: 16356.662 (DC-03303)

Customer No. 000027683

- 1 13. The method of claim 12 wherein the warranty upgrade request includes a  
2 unique identification number corresponding to the computer system.
- 1 14. The method of claim 12 further comprising transmitting, by the warranty  
2 processor, the warranty upgrade price to the computer system.
- 1 15. The method of claim 12 further comprising receiving, by the warranty  
2 processor, payment of the warranty upgrade price.
- 1 16. The method of claim 12 further comprising generating, by the warranty  
2 processor, a warranty authorization including a warranted configuration  
3 describing the configuration to be warranted.
- 1 17. The method of claim 16 wherein the warranty authorization includes warranty  
2 type information.
- 1 18. The method of claim 16 wherein the warranty authorization includes warranty  
2 duration information.
- 1 19. The method of claim 16 wherein the warranty authorization includes the  
2 unique identification number of the computer system.
- 1 20. The method of claim 16 further comprising digitally signing, by the warranty  
2 processor, the warranty authorization to provide a digitally signed warranty  
3 authorization.
- 1 21. The method of claim 20 further comprising transmitting the digitally signed  
2 warranty authorization to the computer system.